

AP World History Key Concepts - Condensed

April 23, 2013

Teachers,

I created this “Reader’s Digest” version of the Key Concepts *before* the Course & Exam Description (CED) was created. The CED gives excellent, plain-English descriptions of what teachers are *required* to teach. Those required content examples are clearly spelled out in outline form. The CED clearly highlights other cases where teachers have the freedom to choose their own example to illustrate the required concept by putting those cases in blue boxes in the margin.

Helpful as the CED is, it’s 66 pages long. I found myself wanting a shorter version of the Key Concepts that I could easily, quickly scan to refresh and focus my thinking each day. **This “Condensed” or “Reader’s Digest” version of the Key Concepts is not meant to function as a substitute for the “full” version. It should only be used in addition to (thoroughly) reading the CED.**

I keep a copy of the current era/period on my desk so I can frequently check whether the lesson(s) that I’m planning target the appropriate content & skills that AP World History demands.

Hope this helps,

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Period 1: Technological & Environmental Transformations, to c. 600 BCE

Key Concept 1.1 Big Geography & the Peopling of the Earth**I. Hunter-foragers gradually migrated, adapting technology & culture to new climates.**

- A. Fire
- B. Tools
- C. Economic structures

Key Concept 1.2 The Neolithic Revolution & Early Agricultural Societies**I. Neolithic Revolution**

- A. Agriculture emerged
 - 1. Mesopotamia
 - 2. Nile & sub-Saharan Africa
 - 3. Indus River valley
 - 4. Yellow River or Huang He valley
 - 5. Papua-New Guinea
 - 6. Mesoamerica & the Andes.
- B. Pastoralism developed
- C. Domestication of crops & animals
- D. Agricultural communities had to work cooperatively.
- E. Environmental Impact of Agriculture & Pastoralism

II. Agriculture & pastoralism effects on human societies.

- A. More reliable & abundant food supplies, increased population.
- B. Surpluses led to specialization of labor & new social classes.
- C. Technological innovations improved agricultural production, trade, transportation, pottery, plows, woven textiles, metallurgy, wheels & wheeled vehicles.
- D. Elites accumulated wealth, creating more hierarchical social structures & promoting patriarchy.

Key Concept 1.3 The Development & Interactions of Early Agricultural, Pastoral, & Urban Societies

I. Civilizations developed in a variety of geographical & environmental settings.

NOTE: Students should be able to identify the location of all of the following.

- A. Mesopotamia in the Tigris & Euphrates River valleys
- B. Egypt in the Nile River valley
- C. Mohenjo-Daro & Harappa in the Indus River valley
- D. The Shang in the Yellow River or Huang He valley
- E. The Olmecs in Mesoamerica
- F. Chavín in Andean South America.

II. The first states emerged.

- A. Definition & characteristics of “States”
 - 1. rulers had divine support
 - 2. supported by military
- B. States grew & competed. Hittites’ developed iron. Those w/ more resources grew & conquered surrounding states
- C. Examples: Mesopotamia, Babylonia, Egypt, Nubia
- D. Pastoralists often developed & spread new weapons & modes of transportation, which transformed warfare.

III. Culture unified states through law, language, literature, religion, myths & art.

- A. Monumental architecture & urban planning
- B. Elites promoted arts & artisanship
- C. Systems of recordkeeping
- D. Legal Codes
- E. New religious beliefs
- F. Trade expanded from local to regional & transregional
- G. Social & gender hierarchies intensified
- H. Literature, which also reflected culture

Period 2: Organization & Reorganization of Human Societies, c. 600 BCE to c. 600 CE

Key Concept 2.1 The Development & Codification of Religious & Cultural Traditions**I. Codifications of existing religious traditions → a bond among the people & an ethical code**

- A. Judaism developed
 - 1. Influenced by Mesopotamian culture & legal traditions
 - 2. Conquered by political states → diaspora communities
- B. Sanskrit scriptures formed Hinduism(s)

II. New belief systems emerged & spread, often asserting universal truths.

- A. Buddhism
- B. Confucianism
- C. Daoism
- D. Christianity
- E. Greco-Roman philosophy & science

III. Belief systems affected gender roles**IV. Other religious/traditions continued parallel to written belief systems.**

- A. Shamanism & animism
- B. Ancestor veneration

V. Artistic expressions, including literature & drama, architecture, & sculpture.

- A. Literature & drama
- B. Indian, Greek, Mesoamerican, & Roman architectural styles.
- C. Greco-Roman sculpture, syncretism w/ Buddhism

Key Concept 2.2 The Development of States & Empires**I. Imperial societies grew dramatically.**

- A. Persian Empires
- B. Qin & Han dynasties
- C. Maurya & Gupta Empires
- D. Phoenician & Greek colonies/colonization, Hellenistic & Roman Empires
- E. Teotihuacan, Maya city states
- F. Moche

II. Empires & states developed new techniques of imperial administration

- A. Rulers created centralized governments, elaborate legal systems, & bureaucracies.
- B. Imperial governments projected military power
- C. Much of the success of empires rested on their promotion of trade & economic integration

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III. Unique social & economic dimensions developed in imperial Societies.

- A. Function of Cities
 - 1. centers of trade
 - 2. religious rituals
 - 3. political administration
- B. Social hierarchies 1) cultivators; 2) laborers; 3) slaves; 4) artisans; 5) merchants; 6) elites; 7) caste groups.
- C. Methods used to produce food, rewards for elites.
- D. Patriarchy continued to shape gender & family relations.

IV. Roman, Han, Mauryan, & Gupta declined, collapsed, transformed into successor empires or states.

- A. Empires caused environmental damage & generated social tensions & economic difficulties.
- B. External problems resulted from the threat of invasions

Key Concept 2.3 Emergence of Transregional Networks of Communication & Exchange**I. Hemispheric trade, communication & exchange networks** climate & location of the routes, the typical trade goods, & the ethnicity of people

- A. Eurasian Silk Roads
- B. Trans-Saharan caravan routes
- C. Indian Ocean sea lanes
- D. Mediterranean sea lanes

II. New technologies → long-distance communication & exchange.

- A. New technologies → domesticated pack animals, ↗ longer routes.
- B. Maritime technologies, monsoon winds

III. Intangible Trade Networks

- A. crops ↗ changes in farming & irrigation
- B. Diseases ↘ urban populations, also ↘ empires (Rome & Han)
- C. Religious & cultural

Period 3: Regional & Transregional Interactions, c. 600 to c. 1450 CE

Key Concept 3.1 Expansion & Intensification of Communication & Exchange Networks**I. Better transportation & commerce ↗ trade & expanded size**

- A. Existing routes flourished ↗ growth of powerful new trading cities.
- B. New trade routes developed between Mesoamerica & the Andes
- C. significant innovations ↗ inter-regional trade in luxury goods
- D. State practices, trading organizations, & state-sponsored commercial infrastructures ↗ commercial growth.
- E. The expansion of existing & new empires facilitated trans-Eurasian trade & communication.
 - 1. new peoples were drawn into their conquerors' economies & trade networks.

II. The movement of peoples caused environmental & linguistic effects.

- A. Trade routes often depended on peoples' understanding & technological adaptations.
- B. Migrations → environment
 - 1. Bantus, iron technology → sub-Saharan Africa
 - 2. Polynesians, foods & animals → Oceania
- C. Migrations & trade → diffusion/creation of languages

III. Trade & communication encouraged cross-cultural exchanges

- A. Islam from Arabia → Afro-Eurasia due to military, merchants & missionaries.
- B. Merchants introduced their culture into indigenous areas.
- C. Extent/limitations of inter-cultural knowledge & understanding reflected in travelers' writings.
- D. Diffusion of literary, artistic, & cultural traditions
- E. Diffusion of scientific & technological traditions

IV. Continued diffusion of crops & pathogens through E. Hemisphere

- A. New foods (cotton, sugar, citrus) & agric tech → urban areas (Dar al-Islam & Mediterranean)
- B. Epidemic diseases followed trade routes

Key Concept 3.2 Continuity & Innovation of State Forms & Their Interactions**I. Empires collapsed, reconstituted. New gov't forms emerged.**

- A. After empires collapsed, most states kept the best and adapted the rest. (Byzantine Empire, Sui, Tang, & Song)
- B. New forms of governance emerged
 - 1. Caliphate
 - 2. Mongol khanates
 - 3. City-states (Italy, E Africa, SE Asia)
- C. States synthesized traditions
- D. In Americas state systems expanded, networks of city-states flourished, Aztecs & Inca began.

II. Contacts & conflicts ↗ technological & cultural transfers

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Key Concept 3.3 Increased Economic Productive Capacity & Its Consequences

I. Innovations ↗ agricultural & industrial production

- A. Technological innovations ↗ agricultural production
- B. Demand for luxury goods → crops transported
- C. China, Persia, & India ↗ textiles & porcelains; China ↗ iron & steel

II. Cities declined or rose, depending on productivity & trade

- A. Declines caused by:
 1. invasions
 2. disease
 3. agricultural productivity
 4. Little Ice Age.
- B. Revival caused by:
 1. End of invasions
 2. Safe & reliable transport
 3. Rise of commerce
 4. Warmer temperatures
 5. Agricultural productivity ↗ population & ↗ labor ↗ urban growth.
- C. Role of cities NOTE: Students should be able to explain functions of at least two major cities.
 1. continued to play roles as governmental, religious, commercial centers
 2. older cities declined
 3. new cities took on these roles

III. Social, Economic, Religious & Gender Aspects

- A. Continued Labor systems included
 1. free peasants
 2. nomadic pastoralism
 3. craft production & guild organization
 4. coerced/unfree labor
 5. government imposed labor taxes/military obligations.
- B. Social structures shaped by class & caste hierarchies. Patriarchy persisted, but women exercised more power & influence in Mongols, W. Africa, Japan, SE Asia
- C. New forms of coerced labor appeared
 1. serfdom in Europe & Japan
 2. elaboration of the mit'a in the Inca Empire.
 3. Free peasants resisted attempts to raise dues & taxes by staging revolts
 4. The demand for slaves for both military & domestic purposes increased
- D. Diffusion of Buddhism, Christianity, Islam & Neo-Confucianism → gender relations & family structure.

Period 4: Global Interactions, c. 1450 to c. 1750

Key Concept 4.1 Globalizing Networks of Communication & Exchange

- I. Global networks developed, but pre-existing regional trade networks also intensified, which brought increased prosperity & economic disruption to those pre-existing networks.**
- II. European transoceanic travel & trade built on previous Islamic & Asian knowledge in tools, (astrolabe & revised maps) ship designs (caravels) & improved understanding of global wind & currents patterns**
- III. New transoceanic maritime reconnaissance**
 - A. Chinese: Zheng He → Indian Ocean
 - B. Portuguese → West Africa, global trading-post empire.
 - C. Spanish: Columbus, increased European interest in travel & trade.
 - D. N Atlantic: crossings continued & spurred European searches for routes to Asia.
- IV. Global circulation of goods. Regional markets continued to flourish**
 - A. Europeans in Asia mostly transported goods within Asia/Indian Ocean
 - B. Silver from Americas → Commercialization/global economy
 - C. Europeans used joint-stock co's (mercantilism)
 - D. The Atlantic system: goods, wealth, free & unfree laborers
- V. The Columbian Exchange**
 - A. European colonization of the Americas → diseases & vermin
 - B. American foods → Europe, Asia, & Africa. Plantations' cash crops → Europe & Middle East
 - C. Deliberate transfer of grains & animals
 - D. Afro-Eurasians benefitted nutritionally from American foods
 - E. European Colonization, agriculture & settlements affected the environment
- VI. Increased interactions between/within hemispheres ↗ spread & reform of religions → syncretic beliefs**
 - A. Islam develop Sunni, Shi'a, & Sufi traditions & continued to spread into Asia & Africa, adapting to local cultures as it spread
 - B. Christianity spread throughout the world. Diffusion & Protestant Reformation → diversification
 - C. Buddhism spread w/in Asia.
 - D. Syncretic religions developed (vodun, Sikhism)
- VII. Merchants' profits → more taxes, → funding for arts**
 - A. Artistic Innovations all over the world
 - B. Literacy expanded along w/ popular literary authors & forms in Africa, Europe, & Asia

Key Concept 4.2 New Forms of Social Organization & Modes of Production

- I. Traditional peasant agriculture & plantations ↗, labor demand ↗, both feeding & responding to ↗ global demand for raw materials & finished products.**
 - A. Peasant labor intensified (e.g. Russian Siberia, Indian cotton Chinese silk)
 - B. Slavery in Africa
 1. slaves into households continued
 2. export to Mediterranean & Indian Ocean expanded
 - C. Atlantic slave trade ↗demand
 - D. Coerced labor (*encomienda*, *hacienda*, slavery, indent serv, *mit'a*) ↗ American plantation economy
- II. As new social/political elites changed, they restructured new ethnic/racial/gender hierarchies.**
 - A. Imperial conquests & economic opportunities ↗ new pol & econ elites
 - B. Existing pol & econ elites fluctuated as they confronted new challenges
 - C. Gender/family restructuring
 1. African slave trades
 2. dependence of European men on women for trade in SE Asia
 3. smaller size of European families
 - D. American demographic changes → new ethnic & racial classifications

Key Concept 4.3 State Consolidation & Imperial Expansion

- I. Methods used to legitimize & consolidate rulers' power.**
 - A. Visual displays
 - B. Religious ideas
 - C. States used ethnic/religious groups to contribute economically, but limited their political challenge.
 - D. States recruited/used bureaucratic elites & military professionals ↗ central control
 - E. Tribute collection & tax farming → territorial expansion.
- II. Gunpowder, cannons & armed trade → large empires**
 - A. Europeans trading post empires in Africa & Asia
 1. profit for rulers & merchants
 2. affected power of states in interior W & C Africa.
 - B. Land empires grew dramatically in size
 - C. New European maritime empires in the Americas.
- III. Challenges to states**
 - A. Competition over trade routes
 - B. State rivalries
 - C. Local resistance

Period 5: Industrialization & Global Integration, c. 1750 to c. 1900

Key Concept 5.1 Industrialization & Global Capitalism**I. Industrialization fundamentally changed production.**

- A. Causes of Industrialization: 1) Europe's geographic location, (rivers, canals & ocean access); 2) Distribution of coal, iron, & timber; 3) European demographic changes incl. urbanization; 4) improved agricultural productivity; 5) legal protection of private property; 6) access to foreign resources; 7) accumulation of \$
- B. Consequences & Developmental Milestones: 1) Fossil fuel-based machines; 2) Factory system → concentrated location labor ↗ specialization of labor; 3) Spread NW Europe → parts of Europe, US, Russia, Japan, et al; 4) 2nd Ind Rev;

II. Search for raw materials & new markets → new patterns of global trade & production ↗ integrated of global economy

- A. Factories needed raw materials & people needed food supplies ↗ single-product export economies. Profits used to buy finished goods
- B. Ind. Rev. ↘ agriculturally-based economies
- C. Ind. Rev. → industrialized states to seek out new consumer markets
- D. The need for metals → extensive mining centers

III. Financial Institutions ↗ investment in Ind. Rev.

- A. Adam Smith & John Stuart Mill → laissez-faire capitalism & economic liberalism
- B. Financial instruments expanded (stock markets, insurance, gold standard, corporations).
- C. global trade/production ↗ transnational businesses (bicycle tires, United Fruit, HSBC)

IV. Transportation & Communication (railroads, steamships, telegraphs, canals)**V. Responses to Global Capitalism**

- A. Industrialized states: 1) workers organized; 2) opposed exploitation of workers
- B. Qing & Ottoman: parts of Gov'ts resisted change
- C. Small # of states promoted their own visions of industrialization: 1) Meiji economic reforms; 2) Russian factories & railroads; 3) Self-Strengthening in China; 4) Egyptian cotton industry
- D. Criticism of capitalism → gov'ts promoted reforms (to mitigate negative effects)

VI. New global economy → ways people organized themselves

- A. New social classes, including the middle class & the industrial working class, developed.
- B. Family dynamics, gender roles & demographics changed in response to industrialization.
- C. Rapid urbanization that accompanied global capitalism often led to unsanitary conditions, as well as to new forms of community.

Key Concept 5.2 Imperialism & Nation-State Formation**I. Industrializing powers established transoceanic empires.**

- A. States w/ existing colonies ↗ their control
- B. European states, Americans & Japan → empires, Spanish & Portuguese influence ↘.
- C. European states used warfare & diplomacy → African empires
- D. In parts of empires, Europeans → settler colonies
- E. Economic imperialism (Opium Wars, Latin America)

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II. Imperialism influenced state formation & contraction around the world.

- A. ↗ U.S. & European influence → Meiji Japan.
- B. US, Russia & Qing emulated European imperialism
- C. Anti-imperial resistance ↘ Ottoman Empire
- D. New states developed on imperial edges
- E. Nationalism ↗ new identities

III. New racial ideologies, especially Social Darwinism, facilitated & justified Imperialism.**Key Concept 5.3 Nationalism, Revolution, & Reform****I. Enlightenment thought questioned traditions & often preceded revolutions.**

- A. Applied new ways of understanding the natural world to human relationships
- B. Critiqued public role of religion. Reason, not revelation
- C. Developed ideas about individual, natural rights & the social contract.
- D. Challenged existing notions of social relations ↗ rights (↗ suffrage, ↘ slavery, ↘ serfdom)

II. Peoples developed new sense of commonality beginning c. 1700

- A. Based on language, religion, social customs, territory
- B. Peoples linked their identity to the state
- C. Gov'ts used this idea to unite diverse populations

III. Enlightenment ideas & discontent ↗ reformist & revolutionary movements.

- A. French & American colonial subjects rebelled
- B. Revolts reflected Enlightenment writings & attempted to practice ideals: 1) Decl. of Independence; 2) Decl. of the Rights of Man & Citizen; 3) Jamaica Letter.
- C. Slave resistance challenged existing authorities in the Americas
- D. Anti-colonial movements
- E. Some rebellions influenced by religious ideas
- F. Responses to rebellions → imperial policy reforms

IV. European political & social thought & rebellions ↗ new transnational ideologies & solidarities.

- A. Discontent w/ rule ↗ new political ideologies: liberalism, socialism & communism.
- B. Women's suffrage & an emergent feminism challenged political & gender hierarchies

Key Concept 5.4 Global Migration**I. Demographic changes encouraged migration**

- A. Food production & improved medical conditions ↗ global population.
- B. New transportation, → internal & external migrants to cities. ↗ 19th C. global urbanization

II. Migrants' motivations

- A. Voluntary, usually in search of work.
- B. Global capitalist economy relied on coerced & semi-coerced labor
- C. Many migrants permanently relocated, but some temporary & seasonal migrants returned home

III. Consequences & reactions to the increasing social diversity

- A. Physical nature of labor → male migrants → women took on new, formerly male roles
- B. Ethnic enclaves → transplant culture ↗ migrant support networks.
- C. Immigrants often not welcomed. Prejudice & states attempted to regulate immigration

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Period 6: Accelerating Global Change & Realignment, c. 1900 to present

Key Concept 6.1 Science & the Environment**I. New Technologies ↗ rapid scientific advances**

- A. New communication & transportation eliminated geographic distance.
- B. New scientific paradigms → understandings of the world
- C. The Green Revolution ↗ food for growing population
- D. Medical innovations ↗ human survival & life expectancy
- E. New energy technologies (oil & nuclear) ↗ productivity & ↗ production of material goods.

II. As global population ↗, Human-Environment relationship fundamentally changed

- A. Exploited & competition over finite natural resources more than ever before
- B. Negative Effects: 1) Global warming; 2) Pollution of water & air; 3) Deforestation & desertification; 4) species extinction

III. Disease, scientific innovations, & conflict → demographic shifts.

- A. Diseases: 1) Poverty-associated persisted; 2) New epidemics; 3) Changing lifestyles & increased longevity ↗ certain diseases
- B. Birth control ↗ women control over fertility & → sexual practices.
- C. Military technology & tactics ↗ wartime casualties

Key Concept 6.2 Global Conflicts & their Consequences**I. Europe dominated c. 1900 but empires ↘. New political forms ↗ by c. 2000.**

- A. Older land-based empires collapsed. Factors included: 1) economic hardship; 2) political & social discontent; 3) technological stagnation; 4) military defeat
- B. Colonies achieved independence through either 1) negotiation; or 2) armed struggle

II. Anti-imperialism ↘ empires & restructuring of states

- A. Nationalist leaders challenged imperial rule.
- B. Regional, religious, & ethnic movements challenged both colonial rule & imperial boundaries
- C. Transnational movements sought to unite people across national boundaries
- D. Communist & Socialist movements re: distribution of resources in Africa, Asia, & Latin Am.

III. Demographic & social consequences of Political changes

- A. Colonial boundaries redrawn → population resettlements
- B. Former colonial subjects migrated to imperial metropolises, maintained cultural & economic ties
- C. Conflicts → ethnic violence (genocide?) & displacement → refugee populations

IV. Military conflicts occurred on an unprecedented global scale.

- A. WWI & WWII = “total wars.” Governments used ideologies to mobilize resources, including political speeches, art, media & intensified forms of nationalism.
- B. sources of conflict 1900-50: 1) imperialist expansion; 2) competition for resources; 3) ethnic conflict; 4) great power rivalries; 5) nationalist ideologies; 6) Great Depression
- C. After WWII balance of power shifted into Cold War capitalism vs. communism struggles
- D. The Cold War → new military alliances: 1) NATO; 2) Warsaw Pact; 3) proxy wars
- E. The end of the Soviet Union ended the Cold War.

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V. Conflict dominated, but individuals & groups & states opposed conflicts. Other individuals & groups intensified the conflicts.

- A. Challenges to many wars: 1) Artistic; 2) anti-nuclear movement; 3) non-violence
- B. Alternatives to existing order: 1) Non-aligned movement; 2) Tiananmen Square; 3) Anti-Apartheid Movement; 4) 1968 global uprisings
- C. Militaries & militarized states often further intensified conflict: 1) military dictatorships; 2) “New World Order;” 3) military-industrial complex; 4) arms trading
- D. Movements used violence against civilians for political aims
- E. Global conflicts influenced popular culture

Key Concept 6.3 New Conceptualizations of Global Economy, Society, & Culture

I. States responded to economic challenges in various ways

- A. Communist states directed the economy & oversaw development of industry
- B. US & W. Europe states played minimal role until Great Depression, when they took more active role
- C. In new states after WWII, gov’ts often took strong role to ↗ economic development
- D. In late 20th C, some gov’ts ↗ free market economic policies & liberalization

II. Internat’l org’s ↗ interdependency among states, communities & individuals

- A. New international organizations ↗ maintain world peace & international cooperation.
- B. New economic institutions ↗ free market economics
- C. Humanitarian organizations responded to crises
- D. Regional trade agreements/blocs ↗ movement of \$ & goods across nat’l borders.
- E. Multi-national corporations challenged state authority & autonomy.
- F. Movements protested environmental & economic inequality of global integration.

III. People conceptualized society & culture in new ways; some challenged old assumptions about race, class, gender & religion; often using new technologies to spread reconfigured traditions.

- A. The notion of human rights gained traction throughout the world (such as the UN Declaration of Human Rights or the end of the White Australia Policy).
- B. Increased interactions among diverse peoples sometimes led to the formation of new cultural identities (such as negritude) & exclusionary reactions (such as xenophobia, race riots or citizenship restrictions).
- C. New forms of spirituality & emphasize particular aspects of practice within existing faiths & apply them to political issues

IV. Popular & Consumer Culture became global.

- A. Sport reflected national & social aspirations
- B. Communication & transportation technology → diffusion of music & film